Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) A method for a client platform coupled to a server platform via a network, comprising:

determining that an input/output operation related to a~~n~~ <u>n</u> ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u> device happens in a virtual machine of the client platform; and

requesting the server platform via the network to handle the input/output operation related to the ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u> device <u>through a client network interface of the client platform</u>.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a server <u>platform</u> identifier to identify the server platform.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the request comprises a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> identifier to identify a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> from a plurality of ~~software~~ devices <u>modules</u> in the server platform to handle the input/output operation related to the ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u> device<u>, wherein the device module corresponds to the input/output device</u>.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a feedback for the input/output operation from the server platform

through the network, the feedback comprising a virtual machine identifier to identify

the virtual machine in the client platform that is executing the input/output operation;

and

sending the feedback to the virtual machine identified by the virtual machine

identifier.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving via the network an interrupt instruction issued by a ~~software~~ device

module of the server platform, the interrupt instruction comprising a virtual machine

identifier to identify a virtual machine to perform the interrupt instruction; and

injecting the interrupt instruction into the virtual machine identified by the virtual

machine identifier.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~machine-readable medium~~ storage device

comprising a plurality of instructions which when executed result in a client platform:

determining that an input/output operation related to an ~~hardware~~ input/output

device happens in a virtual machine of the client platform; and

requesting the server platform via the network to handle the input/output

operation related to the ~~hardware~~ input/output device.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ <u>The storage device</u> of

claim 6, wherein the request further comprise a server <u>platform</u> identifier to identify the

server platform.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ <u>The storage device</u> of

claim 6, wherein the request comprises a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> identifier to identify

a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> from a plurality of ~~software~~-devices <u>modules</u> in the server

platform to handle the input/output operation related to the ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u>

device<u>, wherein the device module corresponds to the input/output device</u>.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ <u>The storage device</u> of

claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions further result in the client platform:

receiving a feedback for the input<u>/output</u> operation from the server platform

through the network, the feedback comprising a virtual machine identifier to identify

the virtual machine in the client platform that is executing the input<u>/output</u> operation;

and

sending the feedback to the virtual machine identified by the virtual machine

identifier.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ <u>The storage device</u> of

claim 6, wherein the plurality of instructions further result in the client platform:

receiving an interrupt instruction issued by a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> from the

plurality of ~~software~~ devices <u>modules</u> in the server platform through the network, the

interrupt instruction comprising a virtual machine identifier to identify a virtual machine

to perform the interrupt instruction;

injecting the interrupt instruction to the virtual machine identified by the virtual

machine identifier.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for a server platform coupled to a client

platform via a network,

receiving, from the client platform via the network, a request for an input/output

operation related to a<u>n</u> ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u> device <u>by a server network interface of</u>

<u>the server platform</u>; ~~and~~

identifying a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> from a plurality of ~~software~~ devices

<u>modules</u> in the server platform to handle the request, the identified ~~software~~ device

<u>module</u> corresponding to the ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u> device related to the input/output

operation<u>;</u>

<u>obtaining a result for the input/output operation from the identified device</u>

<u>module;</u>

<u>constructing a feedback with the result and a virtual machine identifier to</u>

<u>identify a virtual machine in the client platform that is executing the input/output</u>

<u>operation; and</u>

5

sending the feedback from the server platform to the client platform through the

network..

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the request

comprises a ~~software~~ device module identifier to identify the ~~software~~ device module

in the server platform.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising

~~receiving the request for the input/output operation with a first server of the~~

~~server platform,~~

determining whether the identified ~~software~~ device module is in ~~a second~~

~~server of the~~ another server platform; and

sending the request from the ~~first~~ server platform to the ~~second~~ another server

platform via the network, in response to determining that the identified ~~software~~ device

module is in the ~~second~~ another server platform.

.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the feedback further comprise a

client platform identifier to identify the client platform that has sent the request.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:

issuing an interrupt instruction from a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> of the plurality of

~~software~~ devices <u>modules</u> in the server platform to the client platform through the

network.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the interrupt instruction further

comprises a virtual machine identifier to identify a virtual machine in the client platform

to handle the interrupt.

18. (Currently Amended) A ~~machine-readable medium~~ <u>storage device</u>

comprising a plurality of instructions which when executed result in a server platform:

receiving a request for an input/output operation related to a<u>n</u> ~~hardware~~

<u>input/output</u> device from a client platform through a network <u>by a server network</u>

<u>interface of the server platform</u>; ~~and~~

identifying a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> from a plurality of ~~software~~ devices

<u>modules</u> in the server platform to handle the request, the identified ~~software~~ device

<u>module</u> corresponding to the ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u> device related to the input/output

operation<u>;</u>

<u>obtaining a result for the input/output operation from the identified device</u>

<u>module;</u>

constructing a feedback with the result and a virtual machine identifier to

identify a virtual machine in the client platform that is executing the input/output

operation; and

sending the feedback from the server platform to the client platform through the

network.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ The storage device of

claim 18, wherein the request comprises a ~~software~~ device module identifier to identify

the ~~software~~ device module in the server platform.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ The storage device of

claim 20, wherein the plurality of instructions further result in the server platform:

determining whether the identified ~~software~~ device module is in ~~a second~~

~~server of the~~ another server platform; and

sending the request from the ~~first~~ server platform to the ~~second~~ another server

platform through the network, in response to determining that the identified ~~software~~

device module is in the ~~second~~ another server platform.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ The storage device of claim 22, wherein the feedback further comprise a client identifier to identify the client platform that has sent the request.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ The storage device of claim 18, wherein the plurality of instructions further result in the server platform:

issuing an interrupt instruction from a ~~software~~ device module of the plurality of ~~software~~ devices modules in the server platform to the client platform through the network.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~A machine-readable medium~~ The storage device of claim 24, wherein the interrupt instruction further comprises a virtual machine identifier to identify a virtual machine in the client platform to handle the interrupt.

26. (Currently Amended) A system, comprising

a client platform comprising:

a plurality of virtual machines; and

a virtual machine monitor to determine that an input/output operation related to an ~~hardware~~ input/output device happens in a virtual machine of the plurality of virtual machines and construct a request for the input/output operation;

a client network interface to send the request through a network; and

the server platform comprising:

a server network interface to receive the request through the network;

a plurality of ~~software~~ devices <u>modules</u>;

a controller to identify a ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> from the plurality of ~~software~~ devices <u>modules</u> to handle the request, the identified ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> corresponding to the ~~hardware~~ <u>input/output</u> device related to the input/output operation.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein the request further comprises a ~~software~~ <u>device module</u> identifier to identifier the ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> in the server platform.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein

the identified ~~software~~ device <u>module</u> in the server platform is further to obtain a result for the input<u>/output</u> operation, and construct a feedback with the result and a virtual machine identifier to identify the virtual machine in the client platform under control from the controller, and

the server network interface is further to send the feedback to the client platform through the network.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein

the client network interface is further to receive a feedback for the input/output

operation from the server platform through the network; and

the virtual machine monitor is further to identify the virtual machine in the client

platform that is executing the input/output operation based upon the feedback and

send the feedback to the identified virtual machine.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein

a ~~software~~ device module in the server platform is to issue an interrupt

instruction under control from the controller, the interrupt instruction including a virtual

machine identifier to identify another virtual machine in the client platform to handle

the interrupt instruction; and

the server network interface is further to send the interrupt instruction to the

client platform through the network.

31. (Original) The system of claim 30, wherein

the client network interface is further to receive the interrupt instruction; and

the virtual machine monitor is further to identify the another virtual machine

from the plurality of virtual machines based upon the interrupt instruction and inject the

interrupt into the identified another virtual machine.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for a system comprising a client platform

and a server platform, wherein the client platform couples to the server platform

through a network, the method comprising:

determining that an input/output operation related to a~~n~~ ~~hardware~~ input/output

device happens in a virtual machine of the client platform;

sending a request for the input/output operation from the client platform to the

server platform through the network by a client network interface of the client platform;

receiving the request through the network by a server network interface of the

server platform;

identifying a ~~software~~ device module from a plurality of ~~software~~ device~~s~~

modules in the server platform to handle the request, wherein the identified virtual

device corresponds to the ~~hardware~~ input/output device related to the input/output

operation.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the receiving further comprises

receiving the request with a first server in the server platform.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 33, further comprising:

determining whether the identified ~~software~~ device module is in ~~a second~~

~~server of the~~ another server platform; and

sending the request from the ~~first~~ server platform to the ~~second~~ another server

platform through the network, in response to determining that the identified ~~software~~

device module is in the ~~second~~ another server platform.

35. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising:

obtaining a result for the input/output operation from the identified ~~software~~

device module in the server platform;

constructing a feedback with the result and a virtual machine identifier to

identify the virtual machine in the client platform that is executing the input/output

operation; and

sending the feedback from the server platform to the client platform through the

network.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, wherein the feedback further comprise a

client identifier to identify the client platform that has sent the request.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 32, further comprising:

issuing an interrupt instruction from a ~~software~~ device module in the server

platform to the client platform through the network.

38. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the interrupt instruction further comprises a virtual machine identifier to identify another virtual machine in the client platform to handle the interrupt.

39. (Original) The method of claim 38, further comprising:

receiving the interrupt instruction through the network by the client platform;

identifying the another virtual machine in the client platform based upon the interrupt instruction; and

injecting the interrupt into the identified another virtual machine.